Claims:

1   1.   A system for exchanging digital content files as email attachments, comprising:

2   a system server connected to a communications network and implementing a

3   standard electronic mail protocol for sending and receiving email and digital content email

4   attachments via the communications network;

5   the system server having storage and retrieval means for a plurality of user interface

6   display screens and digital content files;

7   an Internet appliance for receiving a reduced keyset keystroke sequence, a

8   connection with the communications network for establishing a client relationship with the

9   system server, a browser for accessing user interface display screens via the network

10 connection, a video/audio converter providing output signals compatible with a standard

11 television receiver for display of accessed user interface display screens, and hyperlink

12 selection means responsive to the received keystroke sequence for navigating an

13 accessed user interface display screen;

14   the user interface screens and the reduced keyset keystroke sequence defining a

15 text entry and editing protocol, an email creation and addressing protocol, an email viewing

16 protocol, and an email deletion protocol;

17   the user interface screens and the reduced keyset keystroke sequence also defining

18 an email attachment selection protocol permitting selection of digital content files for

19 attachment to a user created email;

20   the system server including means responsive to the email attachment selection

21 protocol and the reduced keyset keystroke sequence for retrieving a selected digital

22 content file, and for encoding the file as a standard email attachment;

23   the system server including means for establishing a connection via the

24 communications network with a standard email server, and for sending the email and

25 encoded attachment to the email server using the standard email protocols;

26   the system server including means for establishing a connection via the

27 communications network with the email server for receiving email and encoded

28 attachments, for decoding the attachments, for storing the received email and decoded

25

29 attachment, and for notifying the Internet appliance that an email and attachment has been

30 received.

1 2.   The system of claim 1, further including hand-held reduced keyset means for

2 creating and transmitting the keystroke sequence.

1 3.   The system of claim 2, wherein the hand-held reduced keyset means defines a

2 remote control unit that transmits the keystroke sequence as an infra-red beam, and

3 wherein the Internet appliance is adapted for receiving the infra-red beam.

1 4.   The system of claim 2, wherein the hand-held reduced keyset means defines a

2 wireless telephone, and wherein the Internet appliance is adapted for receiving the

3 keystroke sequence from the wireless telephone.

1 5.   The system of claim 1, further including a standard television receiver connected to

2 receive the converted video/audio output signals for display of user interface display

3 screens, and embedded hyperlinks, including system email protocol display screens,

4 received emails, entered text, screens permitting text editing, digital content file selection,

5 and email recipient address selection and entering.

1 6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the defined email protocols include a user interface

2 display screen and keystroke parsing engine for converting a reduced keyset keystroke

3 sequence to text and displaying the text as the body of a new email.

1 7.   The system of claim 7, wherein the defined email protocols include a user interface

2 display screen and keystroke parsing engine for interpreting a reduced keyset keystroke

3 sequence as editing commands for entered text within the body of the new email and for

4 displaying an editing process.

1   8.   The system of claim 1, wherein the defined email protocols include a user interface

2   display screen and parsing engine permitting a reduced keyset keystroke sequence to

3   access a display of available digital content files, and selecting a digital content file for

4   attachment to a new email.

1   9.   The system of claim 1, wherein the defined email protocols include a user interface

2   display screen and parsing engine permitting a reduced keyset keystroke sequence to

3   display available email recipient addresses, to edit a displayed address, and to enter a new

4   email recipient address.

1   10.   The system of claim 1, wherein the defined email protocols include a user interface

2   display screen and parsing engine permitting a reduced keyset keystroke sequence to

3   select a display of a list of received emails and email attachments.

1   11.   The system of claim 10, wherein the defined email protocols include a user interface

2   display screen and parsing engine permitting a reduced keyset keystroke sequence to

3   select and view a received email, and to select and view/listen to email attachments.

27